



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



CONTRIBUTIONS PRESENTED FOR VETERANS CEMETERY FUND



This week during the South Dakota Veterans Council meeting in Sioux Falls, some great gifts were presented for the SD State Veterans Cemetery Fund.

Contributors included:
Avera Health, South Dakota
American Legion, Sanford
Health, SD Disabled American
Veterans, SD Paralyzed Veter-
ans of America, SD Vietnam
Veterans of America, SD Mili-

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tary Order of the Purple Heart, SD Veterans of Foreign Wars, the SD VFW Baseball program, and Post 23 Baseball program.

Stephanie Judson, Director of the South Dakota Community Foundation was on hand to receive the funds.

Terry Paulsen, president of the South Dakota Veterans Council was recognized for his commitment and dedication to securing passage of SB 91. Vice President Ken Teunissen presented him with a sculpted eagle.

Contributions can also be made by clicking on the following link:
<https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors/existing-funds/south-dakota-state-veterans-cemetery-fund/>.



PVA ANNUAL POKER RUN



4th Annual PVA Poker Run Proceeds to Benefit The



1st Place \$500.00 2nd Place \$250.00 3rd Place \$100.00

WHEN: Saturday, July 21, 2018

WHERE: Thirsty Duck, Sioux Falls, SD

ENTRY FEE: \$20 Single/\$30 Couple sign-up: **MOTORCYCLES & CARS**

REGISTRATION: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Start: Thirsty Duck

Stops: J&L Harley Davidson; Big Urns-Colton, SD; Shipwreck Bar & Grill-Chester, SD; Steve's Bar & Grill-Trent, SD; Norby's-Dell Rapids, SD; Safari Bar & Grill-Renner, SD

End-Thirsty Duck.

Prizes, Food, Beverages, Music, 50/50 Raffle will be provided during the event. After Ride Party/Prizes – 4:30 PM Sharp!!

152ND CSSB PREPARES FOR LARGE-SCALE TRAINING

Soldiers from the Pierre-based 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion are preparing for a month-long training exercise at the National Training Center, or NTC, at Fort Irwin, California, in August. NTC will allow the 152nd to train on their logistics mission of moving supplies in a tough, realistic joint and combined-arms training environment in preparation for deployment overseas.

"Our soldiers have invested an extensive amount of planning, coordination and training over the past year, and I am excited to see their hard work and dedication culminate into a successful rotation," said Lt. Col. Tim Schlotterback, 152nd CSSB commander. "NTC will provide the Soldiers of the 152nd the tough, realistic training that is necessary to prepare them to meet future requirements."



NTC serves as one of the U.S. Army's premier training centers. Units training at the NTC will participate in an exercise where they will be faced with different real-life scenarios to prepare for an ever-changing tactical environment. The training uses simulated systems and mock villages filled with foreign language speaking actors.

The soldiers and vehicles of the 152nd will be outfitted with MILES (multiple integrated laser engagement system) gear, which uses lasers and blank cartridges to simulate actual battle.

"One of our main focuses is survivability training," said Sgt. 1st Class Randy Tollefson. "That's something we don't normally do as a CSSB, and it's going to be very important at NTC, because if we don't survive, we won't be able to do our mission."

The 152nd conducted field training exercises (FTXs) the last three months to focus on the soldiers' tactical proficiency and to conduct command post operations.

"Mother Nature wasn't very nice to us," said Tollefson.

The 152nd's FTX in April was modified due to a blizzard; the June FTX was cut short due to lightning. Despite the setbacks, they accomplished what they set out to do.

"We will need to forecast out to make sure the 56th SBCT has enough food, water and fuel to sustain themselves and set up a shipment process to make sure that we get their supplies to them," said Tollefson. "That's our main mission, and then to stay alive, of course."

IRS UPDATE ON REFUNDS FOR OVERPAYMENTS

The Internal Revenue Service is advising certain veterans who received disability severance payments after January 17, 1991, and included that payment as income that they should file [Form 1040X](#), Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, to claim a credit or refund of the overpayment attributable to the disability severance payment.

This is a result of the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act passed in 2016.

Most veterans who received a one-time lump-sum disability severance payment when they separated from their military service will receive a letter from the Department of Defense with information explaining how to claim tax refunds they are entitled to; the letters include an explanation of a simplified method for making the claim. The IRS has worked closely with the DoD to produce these letters, explaining how veterans should claim the related tax refunds.

The amount of time for claiming these tax refunds is limited. However, the law grants veterans an alternative timeframe – one year from the date of the letter from DoD. Veterans making these claims have the normal limitations period for claiming a refund or one year from the date of their letter from the DoD, whichever expires later. As taxpayers can usually only claim tax refunds within 3 years from the due date of the return, this alternative time frame is especially important since some of the claims may be for refunds of taxes paid as far back as 1991.

Veterans can submit a claim based on the actual amount of their disability severance payment by completing Form 1040X, carefully following the [instructions](#). However, there is a simplified method. Veterans can choose instead to claim a standard refund amount based on the calendar year (an individual's tax year) in which they received the severance payment. Write "Disability Severance Payment" on line 15 of Form 1040X and enter on lines 15 and 22 the standard refund amount listed below that applies:

- \$1,750 for tax years 1991 – 2005
- \$2,400 for tax years 2006 – 2010
- \$3,200 for tax years 2011 – 2016

Claiming the standard refund amount is the easiest way for veterans to claim a refund, because they do not need to access the original tax return from the year of their lump-sum disability severance payment.

All veterans claiming refunds for overpayments attributable to their lump-sum disability severance payments should write either "Veteran Disability Severance" or "St. Clair Claim" across the top of the front page of the Form 1040X that they file. Because all amended returns are filed on paper, veterans should mail their completed Form 1040X, with a copy of the DoD letter, to:

Internal Revenue Service
333 W. Pershing Street, Stop 6503, P5
Kansas City, MO 64108

(Continued on next page)

IRS REFUNDS (CONTINUED)

Veterans eligible for a refund who did not receive a letter from DoD may still file Form 1040X to claim a refund but must include both of the following to verify the disability severance payment:

- A copy of documentation showing the exact amount of and reason for the disability severance payment, such as a letter from the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) explaining the severance payment at the time of the payment or a Form DD-214, and
- A copy of either the VA determination letter confirming the veteran's disability or a determination that the veteran's injury or sickness was either incurred as a direct result of armed conflict, while in extra-hazardous service, or in simulated war exercises, or was caused by an instrumentality of war.

Veterans who did not receive the DoD letter and who do not have the required documentation showing the exact amount of and reason for their disability severance payment will need to obtain the necessary proof by contacting the [Defense Finance and Accounting Services \(DFAS\)](#).

WWII VETERANS HONORED



Susan Irons, County Veterans Service Officer for Lincoln and Union County's hosted a World War II Veterans recognition event this week.

The program was held at Stoneybrook Suites at Dakota Dunes.

SISSETON WAHPETON SIOUX TRIBE HOLDS GRAND OPENING



Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribal Leaders and members, government leaders, and guests gathered yesterday to celebrate the grand opening of the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Veterans Cemetery.

Speakers included: Geri Opsal SWO TVSO, Tribal Chairman Dave Flute, Sisseton Mayor Terry Jaspers, SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman, and NCA Director Randy Reeves. Remarks were presented on

behalf of South Dakota's Congressional Delegation.

A big SDDVA SALUTE goes out to all the team that worked to make this project a reality.



VA PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE TO BOOST VETERAN ACCESS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has formed a partnership with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) which will provide more access to the latest treatment options for VA patients with cancer.

“Strategic partnerships, such as this one with the National Cancer Institute, allows the VA to leverage the strengths of both organizations to the benefit of all stakeholders, especially our veterans,” said VA’s Acting Secretary Peter O’Rourke. “By increasing enrollment in these trials, the VA and veterans will contribute to important cancer research — this will not only help our veterans, but also advance cancer care for all Americans and people around the world.”

The NCI and VA Interagency Group to Accelerate Trials Enrollment, also known as NAVIGATE, is launching at 12 VA sites: Atlanta, Georgia; Bronx, New York; Charleston, South Carolina; Denver, Colorado; Durham, North Carolina; Hines, Illinois; Long Beach, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Palo Alto, California; Portland, Oregon; San Antonio, Texas; and West Haven, Connecticut. Boston, Massachusetts, will also serve as a coordinating center for the effort.

NAVIGATE will build infrastructure at VA sites to enable more veterans to take part in cutting-edge clinical trials sponsored by NCI. Such trials typically test innovative experimental treatments, such as precision-medicine therapies based on patients’ genetic profiles, or immunotherapies that harness patients’ own immune systems to bring about cures.

The NAVIGATE network will also establish best practices and share insights to help other VA Medical Centers nationwide enroll more Veterans in cancer clinical trials. Special attention is being given to minority patients, who often have less access to new treatments and are not as well represented in clinical trials in the U.S.

While the VA has a robust research program — including clinical trials on cancer and other diseases — at more than 100 sites nationwide, VA facilities often face challenges initiating and completing trials, including ones conducted through the NCI National Clinical Trials Network. Local VA research staff, for example, may lack adequate support to handle certain regulatory and administrative tasks involved in these studies. NAVIGATE will help remove those barriers.

NAVIGATE will also seek to enroll veterans in trials sponsored by NCI’s Community Oncology Research Program, which focuses on cancer prevention and symptom management.

The VA’s involvement in NAVIGATE is being managed through the Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) part of VA’s Office of Research and Development. CSP has a long history of running impactful clinical trials focused on veterans’ health needs.

To learn more about CSP and VA Research, visit www.research.va.gov.

DODSON JOINS PENNINGTON COUNTY TEAM

David Dodson has joined the Pennington County team and will serve as one of their veterans service officers.

Born and raised ranching in western South Dakota, David Dodson attended South Dakota State University for two years after graduation from Sturgis Brown High School and before enlisting in the South Dakota Army National Guard. He returned to SDSU following deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and earned his bachelor of science degree in Agriculture and Animal Science in 2007.

Earning his commission as an officer in the Army National Guard, David served as an Engineer Platoon Leader and led soldiers during missions to Suriname, South America where they renovated an elementary school and built a rural health care clinic in conjunction with the Army National Guard's State Partnership Program.

In 2008, David returned to western South Dakota and joined the Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System at Ft Meade where he worked in the Business Office maintaining patient records.

David began a new chapter in his career at Black Hills State University in 2010 as the Assistant Professor of Military Science attached to the Mount Rushmore Army ROTC Battalion. In this position he instructed BHSU students in Military Science and Leadership and served as mentor for aspiring Army officers.

In 2013 David joined the BHSU staff as the Veterans Resource Coordinator and has been instrumental in the renovation of the BHSU Veterans Center as well as reemphasizing the campus commitment to veteran academic success.

David continues to serve in the South Dakota National Guard. Following his assignment as company commander of the 155th Engineer Company and the unit's deployment to Kuwait in 2015-2016, David serves on the 109th RSG staff as an Engineer Plans Officer.

David can be reached at: david.dodson@pennco.org.



VA ESTABLISHES OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION

Focused on ensuring a successful transition from a legacy patient data system, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the recent establishment of the Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization (OEHRM).

Launched in late June, OEHRM will manage the preparation, deployment and maintenance of the VA's new electronic health-care record system and the health information technology (IT) tools dependent upon it.

"As technology and the needs of our veterans evolve, we must also evolve our systems to support better care for our veterans," said VA's Acting Secretary Peter O'Rourke. "This office is dedicated entirely to our electronic health record modernization, and will bring significant and diverse expertise to get the VA to the end-state that will allow medical records to transition seamlessly for service members departing active duty into veteran status."

OEHRM is staffed with knowledgeable, technical and functional subject matter experts and will be led by Genieve Morris, who is currently detailed to the VA from her position as the principal deputy national coordinator for the Department of Health and Human Services. Morris and OEHRM will work in close alignment with VA's Under Secretary of Health and Chief Information Officer.

As she implements the new health IT initiative, Morris said she will concentrate on what is best for the veteran community.

"OEHRM, the Veterans Health Administration and the Office of Information and Technology will continue to collaborate closely to ensure this important transition is as smooth as possible for our veterans, clinicians and staff," Morris said. "We are working hard to configure and design a system focused on quality, safety and patient outcomes, which will allow health IT innovations within one VA facility to be used across the entire VA health-care system."

The VA signed a contract with Cerner Corp. on May 17 to replace its decades-old Veterans Integrated System Technology Architecture (Vista) health-care records technology over the next 10 years with the new Cerner system, which is in the pilot phase at the Department of Defense (DoD). The modernized system will allow the VA to have patient data shared seamlessly between the VA and DoD.

For more information about OEHRM, to include contract information, employment opportunities and messages from OEHRM leadership, go to www.ehrm.va.gov.



Electronic Health
Record Modernization

Welcome to VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) website. We are glad you are interested in learning more about EHRM and helping VA provide seamless care to Veterans. This site is under development and will be updated with additional materials as more information becomes available.

VETERAN TOWN HALL

July 26, 2018

American Legion Post 8
520 S Pierre St
Pierre, SD 57501



Claims Clinic from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Do you have questions about your compensation claim, care in the community, or Veterans health care and benefits? Staff will be available to work with you.

Veteran Town Hall from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Please join us! Sit down with VA leaders to ask questions and discuss VA health care and benefits.



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Black Hills Health Care System

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul 12—Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Cemetery Grand Opening—Sisseton—11:00 am (CT)
 Jul 13 —VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Education Classroom—Fort Meade—10:00 am (MT)
 Jul 14—VVA SD State Council Third Quarter Meeting—Pierre Post 8 American Legion—11:00 am (CT)
 Jul 14-17—DAV National Convention—Reno, NV
 Jul 21-25—VFW National Convention—Kansas City, MO
 Jul 26—VABHHCS Veterans Town Hall—Post 8 American Legion—Pierre 12:30 pm—2:30 pm (CT)
 Aug 20-24—SDDVA Benefits School—Ramkota—Pierre
 Aug 24-30—American Legion National Convention—Minneapolis, MN
 Aug 30—Veterans Day at the State Fair
 Sept 3—Labor Day (state offices closed)
 Sept 11—Improving Veterans Care Conference—BHSU (4300 Cheyenne Boulevard) - Rapid City
 Sept 14—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
 Sept 21—7th Annual POW/MIA Program—Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park (1021 W. Bailey Street) 6:30 pm (CT)
 Oct 10—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—Soldiers and Sailors Building—Pierre—8:00 am (CT)
 Nov 16—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs —10:00 am (MT)



Save the Date

Improving Veterans Care Conference



This mental health summit delivers important information that will assist healthcare providers and other professionals as they work to support families of Veterans and our Citizen Soldiers in South Dakota.

This one-day mental health summit will be held in Rapid City.

Black Hills State University Center
 4300 Cheyenne Boulevard
 Rapid City, South Dakota

Tuesday
September 11, 2018

To register & for details contact Northeast SD AHEC:
www.nesdahec.org or call (605)229-8305








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